

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 EUR-12 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /056 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA - MR SAUNDERS

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O 220010Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 171668

E.O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY 8/1/75

TAGS: MASS, EG

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON DEPARTURE OF USS OPPORTUNE

1. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF USS OPPORTUNE FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AREA ON JULY 22, DOD WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE WITH TEXT AS GIVEN BELOW. PLEASE ASCERTAIN WHETHER ISSUANCE OF THIS RELEASE ACCEPTABLE TO GOE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED TODAY THE END OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT SALVAGE AND ORDNANCE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS SINCE WORLD WAR II. THE USS OPPORTUNE (ARS-41), THE LAST UNIT OF TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE, SAILED FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AND MARKED COMPLETION OF OVER 15 MONTHS OF US RESIDUAL FORCE ACTIVITY IN THAT AREA.

TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE WAS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 1974 TO SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENTS WHEREBY THE UNITED STATES WOULD ASSIST IN CLEARING THE SUEZ CANAL. THE EFFORT INCLUDED MINESWEEPING

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OF THE CANAL AND ITS CLOSE-IN CHANNEL APPROACHES, TRAINING

EGYPTIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
AND UNDERWATER DEMOLITION, THE SALVAGE AND REMOVAL OF
SUNKEN WRECKED SHIPS, AND AIR FORCE AIRLIFT, LOGISTICS AND

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION.

U.S. ARMY AND NAVY DISPOSAL PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE LOGISTICS
SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AND AIR CREWS, AND
MINESWEEPING SHIPS OF THE U.S., EGYPTIAN, BRITISH AND
FRENCH NAVIES, AS WELL AS CIVILIAN SALVAGE PERSONNEL UNDER
CONTRACT TO THE U.S. NAVY'S SUPERVISOR OF SALVAGE COMBINED
TO CONCLUDE THE MAJOR CLEARANCE EFFORT WHICH ENABLED THE
CANAL TO BE REOPENED BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT
ON 5 JUNE 1975.

TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE IS PRESENTLY COMMANDED BY CAPT PAUL
P. CONNOLLY OF NORFOLK, VA. END TEXT.

KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, SHIP MOVEMENTS, VISITS, OPPORTUNE USS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HFMATTHEWS:CEK
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS RELEASE ON DEPARTURE OF USS OPPORTUNE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EG, US
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
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